

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-6, and 8-10 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 2 and 7 have been canceled; and claims 1 and 6 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Objection to Claim 2

In Section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claim 2 because of informalities. Claim 2 has been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

§112 Rejection of Claims 2 and 7

In Section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled. Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 2 and 7 based upon 35 U.S.C. §112 has been obviated and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§102 Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6-8

In Section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Goulden *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,025; hereafter referred to as "Goulden"). Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to address the rejection.

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that "[c]onventionally, in a set-top box and the like for digital satellite broadcasting, contents and the like of broadcastings

on respective channels are displayed, for example, on a multi-screen in order that a desired channel can be selected easily from a large number of channels.” *Background of the Specification, page 1, lines 17-20.*

“Since information to be provided thus increases, the operability of this kind of information apparatuses can be improved if required information can be rapidly and accurately selected. In this case, if information is not selected simply by classification based on broadcasting channels, media, and the like as in a conventional apparatus but it is possible to approach desired information by various selectable methods as required, the operability can be much more improved in case of selecting desired information from a large amount of information as described above. However, as more and more measures for selecting information are provided, the number of operation keys increases in a remote commander as a remote control device, so that the operability may be deteriorated inversely.” *Background of the Specification, page 2, lines 6-16.*

To address the above-described problem, embodiments of the present invention provide apparatus and method for inputting a remote control signal and switching a display screen in response to the remote control signal to select items on a predetermined menu screen. For example, the structure of apparatus claim 1, as presented herein, includes:

“*first determination means* for determining whether or not a first operation key is operated on the remote control device to designate a state of the first operation key as operated or not operated;

screen switching means for switching the display screen from a first display screen to a second display screen if the first determination means determines that the first operation key is operated, the screen switching means operating to display the second display screen while the first operation key is operated; and

second determination means for determining whether or not the second operation key is operated substantially simultaneously with the operation of the first operation key,

wherein if the second determination means determines that the second operation key is operated substantially simultaneously with the operation of the first operation key, processing based on operation of the second operation key is received and displayed on the second display screen, and

wherein the screen switching means switches the display screen from the second display screen back to the first display screen, if the first determination means subsequently determines that the state of the first operation key changed from not operated to operated.”

(emphasis added)

Thus, in summary, the limitations of claim 1 indicates that if the second determination means determines that the second operation key is operated substantially simultaneously with the operation of the first operation key, processing based on operation of the second operation key is received and displayed on the second display screen; and that if the first determination means subsequently determines that the state of the first operation key changed from not operated to operated, the screen switching means switches the display screen from the second display screen back to the first display screen.

The above-disclosed limitations of claim 1 are supported in the Specification on page 41:

“In this respect, FIG. 24 is a plane view showing a first search screen displayed in case where the medium is a video tape recorder or the like which is difficult to access randomly. In this case, it is difficult to find heads of programs by random access, so the internal control section 4 displays icons like operation keys of a video tape recorder, in place of still images in time series.

Further, when the selection operation key 18C is operated with the shift operation key 18E continuously pressed, the brightness of these icons is switched in response to this operation, so that the icon of the focus can be viewed with eyes. Further, when the determination operation key 18C is pressed with the shift operation key 18E pressed continuously, the internal control section 4 outputs a control command for feed forward, rewind, or the like to a video tape recorder or the like, in correspondence with the focused icon. A reproduced image obtained as a result of this is displayed at the screen center.

In contrast, if the press of the shift operation key 18E is released, the internal control section 4 displays the screen displayed at the screen center, over the entire screen, and returns to the original display screen.” *Specification, page 41, lines 5-20.*

Although Goulden discloses a remote control device for a home entertainment system having a GUI with touch screen functionality, Goulden fails to teach or suggest providing an information providing apparatus for inputting a remote control signal and switching a display screen in response to the remote control signal such that if the second determination means determines that the second operation key is operated substantially simultaneously with the operation of the first operation key, processing based on operation of the second operation key is received and displayed on the second display screen; and that if the first determination means subsequently determines that the state of the first operation key changed from not operated to operated, the screen switching means switches the display screen from the second display screen back to the first display screen.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is maintained claim 1 should be allowable over Goulden. Furthermore, since independent claim 6 closely parallels, and includes substantially similar limitations as, independent claim 1, claim 6 should also be allowable over Goulden. Since claims 3 and 8 depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, claims 3 and 8 should also be allowable over Goulden. Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-8 based upon 35 U.S.C. §102(e) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 4 and 9

In Section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goulden, in view of Autry *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,106; hereinafter referred to as "Autry").

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding claims 1 and 6, and since claims 4 and 9 depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, claims 4 and 9 should be allowable over Goulden.

It is indicated in Section 6 of the Office Action that Autry teaches a remote control device with a grip part. Therefore, it is maintained that Autry fails to teach or suggest the above-disclosed limitations in claim 1.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is submitted that Goulden and Autry, in combination or individually, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations claims 4 and 9.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 4 and 9 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 5 and 10

In Section 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goulden, in view of Hatori *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,977,974; hereinafter referred to as "Hatori").

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding claims 1 and 6, and since claims 5 and 10 depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, claims 5 and 10 should be allowable over Goulden.

It is indicated in Section 7 of the Office Action that Hatori teaches generating images, which are sequentially arranged so as to allow the user to find the desired image in a quick and efficient manner. Therefore, it is maintained that Hatori fails to teach or suggest the above-disclosed limitations in claim 1.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is submitted that Goulden and Hatori, in combination or individually, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations claims 5 and 10.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 5 and 10 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1, 3-6, and 8-10 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

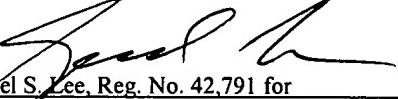
PATENT
Appl. No. 09/601,161
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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